

# THE TROY HERALD.

VOL. 9.

TROY, LINCOLN COUNTY, MO., DECEMBER 9, 1874.

NO. 49

## EDITORIAL CORRESPONDENCE.

PRINCE GEORGE'S CO., MD.,  
December 4, 1874.

Dear Herald: Since I arrived in this state business matters have so engrossed my attention that I have not had time to write, and scarcely time to look at places of sufficient interest to write about. This must be my apology for having nothing better to offer this time.

We reached Washington on the morning of the 24th ult., having branched off at Cincinnati, instead of coming direct by way of Parkersburg. In order to make a visit to the pretty little city of Mt. Vernon, Ohio, where we spent two pleasant days, leaving there in the afternoon of the 25th. The splendid scenery of the Alleghany and Blue Ridge mountains, which I have often enjoyed, were passed in the night.

Washington City has immensely improved in appearance since I last saw it. Vast sums of money have been expended upon the streets, parks and public grounds. Pavements have been laid on every street and avenue, which were only graded before, and a few of the principal ones gravelled. The pavements are the Nicholson, the concrete or else, the famous Seneca sandstone. The work still goes on, notwithstanding the groans of the outraged taxpayers, who bear two-thirds of the expense, the remainder being met by congressional appropriation. The exorbitant taxation has seriously retarded the growth and impaired the business of the city. I asked the proprietor of the hotel what the citizens generally thought of Boss Shepherd. It would hardly be the proper thing to give his answer verbatim. It was short, to the point, and not at all elegant. It is supposed that Shepherd and his associates made more money than a strict construction of the moral law warranted when they had charge of the public expenditures. Such a suspicion is not calculated to foster amicable relations between the taxpayer and the public servants.

The experiments in the matter of city government, made under the present regime, have not proved satisfactory to the respectable and substantial element of the population. In fact the disgust and dissatisfaction are indescribable, and the tax-ridden people expect relief from no other source but congress. They want the good old times when congress governed the city and Uncle Sam furnished the purse. They contend that the District is the property of the United States, that the patriotic pride of the country would be gratified at the speedy and grand development of the national capital, and further, that it would be manifestly unjust for the bona fide citizens to bear all the taxation, or even a considerable share of it, while so large a number of citizens of other states, who never bear any of the burdens of taxation, make the city their home only so long as they are supported by federal patronage. This argument seems inevitably strong to those interested, but in what light it will be regarded by congress is quite a matter of conjecture.

Anxious to get to the country, where I should have a good opportunity of recovering from the fatigue of travel, I deferred visiting the public buildings until my return to the city, which will be in a few days. I went to the Treasury department to visit a lady friend who is engaged in counting that which is the main-spring of the world. I had the honor of an introduction to Gen. Spinner, the United States treasurer. When we entered his room he was endeavoring to convince three ladies, who desired employment, that he had no vacancies in his department. The spokes-woman refused to be convinced, and mentioned a certain room that was not filled. "My God! madam," said the bluff old gentleman, "I can't put a thousand ladies in a room that holds only twelve. Even if I could, it wouldn't be honest, you know." The ladies retreated,

and I was presented. After a hearty shake, he said: "You Missourians have a hard name." Not knowing what reference was contained in his remark—whether it was the (to him) naughty political situation of the state, or what Mr. Schurz will persist in calling "lawlessness"—and not caring to provoke a discussion upon either of these points, I modestly observed that people often acquired reputations for which they are not responsible. Here my fair friend told the general my profession. "Well," said he, "editors are no worse than other people. Ministers of the gospel alone occupy that position now. This is a bad time on the preachers." From this it might be inferred that his bump of veneration is not over-developed; and possibly this is the case, but he is immensely popular with every one who has the good luck to know him, and his genuine good humor and kindness of heart are proverbial. Everybody is familiar with his signature, and it is the common impression (at least it was mine) that the hieroglyphics on the treasury notes that stand for his name are the result of slow and painstaking labor with the pen. I was astonished to see him dash it off with uncommon quickness as he wrote me a pass to visit the rooms occupied by the Division of Issues. Here all the money issued by the government is counted. I hurried out of it as soon as politeness permitted, for I can conceive of no sight more tantalizing to a country editor than those huge piles of nice, new, crisp greenbacks.

Marlborough, the county seat of this county, whither business called me a few days ago, is a quaint old village of some five hundred inhabitants. Its record date back to about the year 1640, being the third place settled in the state of Maryland. Its business men are not enterprising enough to adapt themselves to the new condition of things consequent upon the abolishment of slavery, and do not therefore retain the trade of even the immediate neighborhood. They seem content with the custom of those who cannot go elsewhere, and enjoy a kind of fossil existence. The two excellent papers published there, the *Gazette* and *Prince Georgian*, never contain a home advertisement, but are crowded with the invitations of the merchants of Baltimore, Washington and Alexandria, to the citizens of this county to come and deal with them. Marlborough has an unfortunate location, being crowded between the hills and adjacent to a large swamp, which affords an inexhaustible amount of malaria. Malarial diseases are very common here; more so than any other class of disorders, except pulmonary complaints. In common with Delaware, New Jersey, eastern Pennsylvania, New York and the New England states, consumption rages here, causing, to Prof. Donaldson of Baltimore, twenty per cent. of the deaths. The cold, changeable climate is considered by him to greatly influence this result.

In going to Baltimore on Monday, I had the pleasure of meeting on the cars my old friend, Capt. Wells, of the Port Tobacco Times, which the *Herald* claims as one of its most welcome exchanges. The Captain is an earnest advocate of the true political faith, and has been ably battling for it through his journal for more than thirty years.

I have just returned from a visit of inspection to the House of Reformation for colored children, situated about three miles off. This institution was created to meet a want that was deeply felt. The colored population is very large in this state. Its vicious youths are debarred by the terms of its charter from admission into the House of Refuge, and consequently the penitentiary and county jails were filled with them. This was felt to be unjust and unwise. After much exertion on the part of those interested in the prevention of crime, a charter was procured in the year 1870, and \$10,000 appropriated by the state contingent upon the subscrip-

tion by private parties of \$30,000. An active canvass secured \$10,000 more than the required amount. In 1872-3 \$40,000 were appropriated by the state and the city of Baltimore, making a total of \$90,000. There are already erected three large handsome buildings, and others will follow as fast as they can be constructed. The main building is three stories high with basement, and shows a front of one hundred and forty-eight feet. It contains the superintendent's residence, offices, assembly room, dining room, etc. The other buildings contain school rooms, dormitories, cells for the refractory inmates, etc. Work shops will soon be erected for the teaching of the various trades. The buildings are being erected under the admirable management of the superintendent, Gen. John W. Horn, an officer in every way fitted for the position. For six years he was warden of the Maryland penitentiary, and from costing the state hundreds of thousands of dollars annually he brought it to be nearly self-sustaining.

Nearly every one flatters himself that he can determine, more or less accurately, the character of the mind by the countenance, but I had my self-estimate as a physiognomist sadly lowered to-day. Returning from the House of Reformation, I rode by Cheltenham station, where an Episcopal church is in process of completion. From the appearance of the building, I judged the minister to belong to the advanced high-church party. I addressed myself to the most intellectual-looking of the carpenters, and asked him if the church would have a resident minister. He replied that he didn't know; that Rev. Mr. Gordon of Croon had the church built. "Is he a high-church man?" "Yes, I think he's a big man among 'em." Thinking to make my meaning plainer, I put the question in another form: "Is he a ritualist?" "Oh, yes, he lives all by himself; he ain't married and ain't likely to." "Good evening, sir; I am very much obliged for the information."

J. A. M.

## SECTIONAL SCHOOL BOOKS.

Editors Herald: I notice in the new school law a provision requiring the presidents of the boards of education in the several counties of the state to meet at the county seats of their respective counties, to adopt a system of school books which shall continue as a standard system for five years, and by which teachers and patrons are to be governed.

I consider this law just and appropriate, and one that has been long needed in this country, and Lincoln county in particular. Here now is room for both reform and improvement. Every person who has gone to a variety of teachers, knows he had to get a variety of books. This teacher wanted the book that perhaps he used to study, say a long time ago, when he was a boy; and another had altogether different ideas, and must have a book that would conform to them, and the consequence was the pupil's book box, and not his head, was filled with learning. This law will seriously affect this part of the programme.

Now as a variety of authors and books have been introduced into the schools, so have some of the basest of falsehoods. Books that ought to be treated with contempt have been placed into the hands of the delicate child to contaminate its mind, and make it, instead of a storehouse of useful knowledge, one of vice and error. This is owing mainly and almost entirely to the use of northern school books. Our public schools have been crammed for so long with these books, that ninety-nine out of every hundred children, and about half as many patrons, have formed the idea that they are entirely dependent upon northern authors and publishers for all the correct information that they ever expect to get. The child, if attentive, notices where his book is published; he finds all of his books northern, and of course if he forms an opinion of our two sections, it

will be an extremely poor one that he forms of the one in which he lives. There are southern publishing houses, and they publish good books—books that are written by men of fine talent, and why not use them? There are men who have the greatest of hostility to northern institutions, who condemn what they term the Yankee government of the north, that quietly and tamely submit to these books and allow their contents to be forced into the brains of their children. And why, oh, our fathers, do you allow this to be done? Are you not aware that these very principles which you abhor are forming the very masonry as it were of your child's education? Still day after day you are submitting to it. Truly may this question be placed among the unanswerable. That very knowledge which many a man is laboring to give his child, if he were to consider deeply for only a few minutes, he would snatch it away as if it were a poison.

I do not pretend to say this evil tendency extends to all northern books; but I shall oppose them when corresponding southern books can be had. As far as arithmetic, algebra, grammar, etc., are concerned, their principles are the same, north or south, simply because sectionalism cannot be introduced to any advantage; but in those books where it can be introduced to advantage, it is inserted and is always wholly in the favor of the north. This runs to a degree more or less in most all northern literature, and nowhere is it more apparent than in their histories. The question, where shall we get a reliable history of the United States? may be classed with the questions above. Now I do not pretend to know all about northern histories, but as I have been engaged as a teacher for some few years, I pretend to know several parts of several histories that I have taken particular pains to examine. In many of these parts I have found in the author want of veracity, and a strong disposition to view things from only one side. Now under this head I will notice one book more particularly. This is the popular and well known history of S. G. Goodrich. I do not know of a more weak, narrow, false, contemptible history than this. Still it is largely used in our schools, and I have heard it hinted, and have reason to believe, that it will receive strong support in our county convention.

I have not heard much about that convention, but there seems to be a tendency to advocate the books that have been and are now used. This is very good, provided the directors give those books a fair and impartial examination, and they suit their views. But here, now, is a book which if any fair minded man will examine, he will kick it with contempt into the fire. This Goodrich is the man that goes by the name of Peter Parley. Peter Parley has written a great many nice little stories for children, and is well suited for that; but when he pretends to write a history of our country for our youths to read and study, he is as much out of his sphere as was the little toad that tried to swell to the magnitude of an ox.

This would-be historian and great simpton magnifies little puritanic deeds into great wonders, but takes care to leave out of his book their great deeds of devilry. But if you want to get sick of this self-magnified, would-be Herodotus, just read his causes of our late war. They need no comments here, as every one can get the book, read and judge for himself. But this Goodrich only expresses what many other northern historians half-way express, and why should we prefer one more than another.

I am not in favor of sectionalism. I would give as little heed to a fiery southern history as to this one. What we want is a correct, impartial history of the United States, minus the late war. It that be incorporated by these would-be historians any how, I am in favor of the one that has some semblance to the truth. But we have used northern books for numbers of years; now let us have a change. Let every fair minded and intelligent

man work, and work might and main for southern publishing houses, and by this means teach his children the great and important fact—that the northern section of our country does not contain all of the intelligence of this great and broad land.

There will be no lack of books for discussion, for the country has been for the past few months literally stocked with northern advertisements in the form of pamphlets, etc. They are almost equal to the vermin in the days of Pharaoh in numbers, while in character they are a great deal worse. Wilson, Hinkle & Co., Harper & Bro., Barnes & Co., and so on, *ad infinitum*, have never ceased since they learned the passage of the law, regarding school books to favor the people with their presents, and they are dealt out to the people almost by the cart load. But beware of these, and be not deceived. We should be careful to make no hasty opinions respecting them.

Thus far I have fortunately had the pleasure of getting the pamphlets of one southern publishing house, which I believe is not generally known—that of John P. Morton & Co. of Louisville. In looking over their catalogue, I notice the names of many school books, and among these Butler's grammar. Now I like this grammar, principally because it is gotten up by southern publishers. It is a grammar that has been long and successfully used in many parts of our country, and has, as far as I know, given entire satisfaction. There are some good things in other grammars, of course, that are not in this, but then there is something in this which is not in others. Taken altogether, I do not think we could better this department by a change.

Towne's mathematics is published here, but whatever system of arithmetic and algebras we adopt, we should not overlook the geometry and trigonometry of that eminent Prof. Chauvenet of St. Louis. As for utility and deep learning he probably has no superior in this country, Ray and Robinson not excepted.

Wheatley's rhetoric and logic are very good books, published by Morton & Co. The last of these is well known to many of our students.

Webster's speller and definor is also published by this company, as well as in the north. Whether published in the north or in the south, every one should aim to secure their universal adoption.

But the thing we need most from the south—a history—is not published here, nor do I know of a southern history published anywhere. This is the thing the convention should look to with the greatest interest. Know just what you are fastening upon this county for the next five years. Examine carefully every history proposed, and very, very carefully the accounts of the late war. Of the northern histories that are before the people for consideration, I am inclined to think that Barne's is the best. I have not seen his new edition, but in his old edition he seems to shun as best he can that northern prejudice and hatred which so characterizes these books. In his review of the war he treats very lightly the causes. He does not call the southern people rebels, and traitors, and fire-eaters, like the most of these bigots, but simply by the names they chose for themselves—confederates. Some history, of course, will be adopted, but oh, our fathers, for heaven's sake deliver us from that infamous, abominable Black Republican concern of S. G. Goodrich.

Respectfully,  
STUDENTS.

**MASONIC CELEBRATION.**—The Masonic lodge at this place will have a public installation of officers here on the 26th inst. Preparations are now being made by the members to render the affair a grand one. Rev. L. H. Downing of Clarksville will deliver an oration; and then will come a feast of good things, so that those who do not enjoy the dazzling regalia may the fatted turkeys, lambs, etc. It will doubtless be a magnificent affair.

**CONCERT.**—The pupils of the Troy public and high school will give an entertainment at the public school hall on Friday evening, December 18. The program will consist of music, dialogues and statutory. Admission 25 cents.

**SENT UP.**—Henry Rhodes was arrested short time since for stealing some clothing. He was tried before Judge Edwards last Thursday, convicted and sentenced to two years in the penitentiary.

The folly of working the roads in the fall is clearly exemplified by their condition since the recent rains and snow. The mail hack has to use four horses.